The issue regarding the ED Agents involve basic principles relating to the terms and conditions of employment under the Central Government, and hence these call for extensive examination in depth, and in consultation with other nodal Departments/Ministries of the Government of India.

In this context, the efforts of the Department of Posts to modernise the services with new technology and generate more revenue through premier services and products specifically tailored to meet the requirements of commercial/business sector are also relevant.

Seizure of bank guarantee of Cell Operators

5357. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have seized bank guarantees of cell operators; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) As and when the circumstances so warrant, the Government takes action to record its lien on, or to encash the Bank Guarantees furnished by the service providers in terms of the license agreements. A lien was accordingly recorded recently in respect of a few bank guarantees of some cellular operators to secure the interest of the Government vis- a-vis the outstanding wireless dues and future payments of license fee as revenue share.

Purchase of Hindi Typewriters

†5358. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Departments under the Ministry which don't have a single Hindi typewriter so far;

(b) the reasons for not purchasing the Hindi typewriter so far and the officers responsible for such kind of neglignece; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the compliance of targets fixed for the purchase of Hindi typewriter by the Department of Official Language in its annual Hindi programme?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The details regarding DoT and DTS are given in the statement (*see* below). The details regarding DoP are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

NOTE: DoT (Department of Telecommunications)
DTS (Department of Telecom Services)
DoP (Department of Posts)

STATEMENT

There is no such circle in DoT and DTS where not even a single Devnagari Typewriter is available. Hence Part (b) of the Question does not arise in view of this.

Efforts are being made by the Department to achieve the targets fixed by the Deptt. of O.L. in the Annual programme regarding purchase of Hindi Typewriters. Devnagari Typewriters are available in all circles. Hindi Software have been loaded is being loaded, wherever Computers are available.

STD facility in Almora

5359. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 3340 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 1997 and state:

(a) the latest position with regard to telepohone facility in the Taya, Seem and Kotagiwai in District Almora; and

(b) by when STD facility will be provided to Basot and Bhataraujkhan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No telecom facility is available at present in the villages *i.e.* Taya, Seem and Kotagiwai. VPTs at these locations are proposed to be installed during 2000-2001.

(b) The STD facility has been provided to Bhatarujkhan in the second week of February, 2000. The proposal has been made to provide STD facility at basot during 2000-2001 by Satellite based VPT.

New telecom facility for delivery of Money Orders

5360. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any way in which the cost of money orders could be brought down by the post office;